

MEXICO MISSOURI MESSAGE.

VOLUME III.

MEXICO, AUDRAIN COUNTY, MISSOURI, THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1902.

NUMBER 25

What City Women Read

By **FREDERICK HILD,**
Librarian Chicago Public Library.



FICTION IS THE MAIN MENTAL FOOD OF THE CITY WOMAN WHO STANDS FOR THE MASSES. Certainly this is the conclusion compelled by observation of the reading habits of those who patronize the public library of this city. And as 75,000 cards are in constant use by their holders, who last year drew 1,774,741 volumes, it will be seen that the activities of such an institution afford a wide and interesting field of survey.

Unfortunately present methods of recording and classifying the demands made upon the library do not enable us to give figures in direct analysis of the book calls made by women patrons. Our records show that a little more than half the cards issued by the library are held by women, and that two-thirds of the total books given out are works of fiction. Here recorded information stops. But personal observation, even though not enforced by figures, may be trusted for something in a matter of this kind, especially when the observer is trained and experienced, as are those who serve the public at the counters and in the stack rooms of a big metropolitan library.

And what say these experts? That, FOR BOOKS OTHER THAN THOSE OF FICTION, NOT ONE CALL IN TEN COMES FROM A WOMAN. This means that the women of the city read mainly for entertainment.

There are, however, notable exceptions to this statement. This is a day of women's literary and art clubs, and those who are active in this field of research are to be classed among the more studious readers. These reach out into fields of art, letters and biography.

Although the number of women readers of this class in a big city is large, it is to be feared that it suffers, in proportion, by comparison with the number of this class of women readers in the smaller towns, country villages and farming communities. IT IS STRONGLY CONTESTED BY THOSE FAMILIAR WITH THE READING AND INTELLECTUAL HABITS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY THAT A LARGER PROPORTION OF THE WOMEN OF THE RURAL OR VILLAGE COMMUNITY FINDS ITS RECREATION IN FOLLOWING A COURSE OF HOME STUDY AND INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION, THAN IN THE CITY. Country women have less in the way of social demands to divert them and consequently are able to read more seriously and uninterruptedly than their city sisters.

Without the light of personal observation I am inclined to grant this contention.

However, do not let the statement that the average city woman is the true modern type of the novel reader be construed as an impeachment of her intellectuality. She simply elects to gain her views of life through the eyes of the novelist instead of the biographer or historian. And who shall say that the stirring pages of "The Crisis" will not bring her as near the figure of the great emancipator as tomes of historical wisdom, or that "The Leopard's Spots" will not give her a glimpse of reconstruction days that she could not gain from volumes devoid of the romancer's touch.

Frederick Hild

More and more the great white world is waking up to the importance of a correct appreciation of China. It is a great and wonderful country, destined to play remarkable parts in the future history of the world. The little trouble that China has just been through has hardly made an impression upon the great slow moving public mind of the people.

If all the Chinese in the world were to file past a given point one by one, day and night, the end of them would never be reached. By the time that all the living Chinamen had passed, a new generation would have been born and ready to commence to file past the spot in the place of the generation that is now alive—and so on forever.

Although the Chinese nation is so old, we know very little about it as a whole. The time may come when it will be to the advantage of every American to know something about China and its people and language. Even in the twentieth century we may come to look at China and its remarkable lands, as in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries Europe looked upon America. Anyway the race and its characteristics are worth studying. I am glad to know that in America Columbia university, of New York city, has decided to take up the study of the Chinese in a definite way. The foundation of the Dean Lang chair will mean a great deal to America. In studying the Chinese language the first thing to be done is to find a grammar. This is a thing that is almost unknown in China. But there are Chinese grammars, and they bear the famous mark "Made in Germany." Having got possession of a grammar the next thing is to commence to study it. In a few days the student will be able to say a few words, and in a few weeks will say more. In six months he will jabber considerably, and with some ease. It all depends how he goes to work to study the language. There are Europeans who speak the language so well that it is almost impossible to tell them from the natives.

Theoretically there is but one language in China, but really there are more. There are many dialects. And any two of these dialects are as different from each other as are English and Dutch.

Mandarin is the official language of the whole empire. It is the language spoken between official and servant, between judge and prisoner. Is a prisoner brought in from the country? He tells his tale in his own native dialect, and it is translated by the official interpreter into Mandarin. The judge asks his questions in Mandarin and they are translated back into the dialect. The decisions are in Mandarin always.

Mandarin is the language that should be studied by the student going from America for practical purposes. If he is going to do business in any particular province he can learn the dialect of that province later.

KOKENDOFER HONORED.

C. Hill and W. D. Endres also Remembered.

The convention of the Missouri Christian ministerial institute at Columbia closed last Thursday. The principle address for that day was delivered by Rev. B. T. Smith, of Cincinnati, on "The Methods of Securing our Missionary Offering."

The visiting ministers and their wives were entertained at Christian female college by Mrs. Luella St. Clair. An elaborate dinner was served.

Prof. W. J. Lhaman, of the Missouri Bible college, addressed the convention on the subject of Ministerial Education. The new officers are: President, A. W. Kokendoffer, Mexico; vice-pres., B. T. Wharton, Marshall; sec., J. H. Wood, Shelbina. Executive com., J. H. Hardin, Liberty; W. J. Lhaman, Columbia; W. F. Richardson, Kansas City. Com. on membership—L. H. Otto, Higginsville; A. N. Lindsay, New Franklin; F. A. Mayhall, Louisiana; C. C. Hill, California; W. D. Endres, Montgomery City.

Rev. Kokendoffer, the new president, is the popular pastor of the Mexico church. Elders Hill and Endres, on committee membership, are both well known in this county—both have been pastors of the church at Laddonia. C. C. Hill is son-in-law of Mr. E. Hughes of this city.

MISSOURI DEBATE.

Audrain Boy Among Them—His Side Wins.

The municipal ownership idea is growing in favor and an Audrain boy is proudly helping to sow the seed. Walter Burch lives near Laddonia, this county.

Lawrence, Kan., April 17.—The fifth annual debate between the representatives of the state universities of Kansas and Missouri took place here tonight. The event was witnessed by a large crowd of enthusiastic college men and the decision was given to Missouri by the judges, giving that school three of the five debates that have been held. The question that was discussed was "Resolved, that Municipalities Should Own and Operate Plants for Supplying Light, Water and Surface Transportation." The affirmative was supported by Missouri, with J. L. Maynard, Walter Burch and L. E. Bates as speakers. The negative speakers for Kansas were J. H. Tolen, L. C. Rankin and W. F. Mowry. The judges were Eugene F. Ware, recently appointed United States pension commissioner; Silas Porter, of Kansas City, Kan., and Judge S. A. Riggs, of this city.

R. W. Goodell and family moved back to Mexico from St. Louis, Glad to welcome their return.

The Missouri court of appeals decides that a woman found guilty of acts entitling her husband to a divorce forfeits all her rights in his property.

Edgar Lee, of Rush Hill, and Wiley Atkins, of Worcester, left this week for Columbia, to attend the Columbia Normal Academy. Mr. Lee will teach the McClintock School, near Rush Hill next winter. Success to the boys in their studies at Columbia.

The MESSAGE editor made the acquaintance of Mr. M. P. Carpenter and family, just southwest of this city, the other day. Mr. Carpenter came from Cooper county about a year since and bought the large farm where he now lives. He showed us about his place and we noted a number of improvements. Mr. Carpenter intends to build a large new residence soon, on the Fulton road which passes his place on the east, and we predict that it will not be long till he has one of the best improved farms adjoining Mexico. Mr. Carpenter is a hustler and we welcome all such to Audrain. H. L. Steppelman, ex-member of our city council, and Mr. Carpenter were neighbors in their boyhood days.

Corn's a sproutin'.

Bryan's lecture tonight.

Laddonia wants a town hall.

Next Saturday is the primary.

Laddonia public school closes tomorrow.

Monroe county citizens are chasing the illicit whisky sellers.

E. R. Hagan, of near Laddonia, is feeding 45 head of fine young mules.

The candidates speak at Naylor tonight and tomorrow comes the wind-up at Mexico.

Martinsburg is considering Sunday closing of all business houses. Should be done, of course.

Jap Moomaw, of Worcester vicinity, sold a span of mules to Vandalia parties the other day for \$400. They were fine fellows.

The Presbyterians have organized a union in Japan and the Methodists in that country are working to get together in the same way.

Sturgeon Leader: Miss Eva Sanatzer has been unanimously elected to teach the eight months' term of school at Littleby, near Mexico.

Mexico Modern Woodmen camp will have five cents per member in the Temple of Fraternity building to be erected at the World's Fair in St. Louis.

Audrain land is advancing in price. Some of the farmers are not as anxious to sell as they thought when they meet a buyer face to face.

Prof. F. C. Douglass has been re-elected principal of the Martinsburg public school. Guss Wilson and Miss Maggie Torreyson will be his assistants.

The work of Prof. Basil Brewer and his assistants, Lee McCall and Miss Lena Petty, was so successful that the patrons have petitioned the board for their re-election.

The nine year old daughter of Wm Elmer, of near Marshall, was burned to death last Friday, her clothes catching fire while she was playing at a burning brush pile.

Last November John Ryan, of Vandalia, this county, received injuries at Roadhouse, Ill., by the C. & A. railroad recently, through his attorneys, Cullen and Batts, the case was compromised. The road gives Mr. Ryan \$1,870.

The groom, the man and the minister were in the vestry of a Louisiana church the other day, it is reported. The organist began to play and the minister started for the door. "Wait one moment, parson," called the nervous bridegroom. "Is it the right or left hand the ring goes on?" "The left," And, doctor, is it kismet or duty to kiss the bride?"

Mr. Alex Davis has lived on the same farm west of Mexico for 52 years. He knew Mexico when the grounds were but a haunt for deer and wolves and other wild animals. Mr. Davis is in his 80th year. He remembers voting for Henry Clay for President and says he once belonged to the Know-nothings, the only really true party this country ever had. Mr. Davis can tell some interesting things of old long since.

T. T. Turley sold his large "home" farm, near Skinner, to a Kiola, Iowa, man at \$40 an acre. The Iowa man paid down \$1,000 and Mr. Turley has the rent of the place till the first of next March. This is the best price for land in Audrain that far from town, we have heard of. But it is a well improved place. Mr. Turley says that there is an acre of hardy western catfish growing on one corner of the farm that is alone worth \$200. Mr. Turley planted the seed, which cost him \$3 an ounce.

Educate Your Bowels With Cascarets. Candy Cathartic, cure constipation forever. 10c. Box. If C. C. Call, druggists refund money.

PRELUDE.

With apologies to the Center Intelligence.

Now that spring is a-coming, with the song-birds and the flowers. And the south wind is a-bringing the refreshing April showers: When the fields are filled with greenness, and all nature wears a smile, The woods are full of can'tates, seeking voters to beguile.

Over here in Old Audrain, on old Salty's placid shore, We have a gang of good ones, despite Salty's sullen roar, And all are CONFIDENT and ANXIOUS for the final day to come, That means a free ride for a few, a Salty ride for some.

Then somewhere in this county fair will the sun be shining hot, The birds will be singing somewhere, and somewhere—they will not, Somewhere men will laugh with joy, somewhere children shout, But somewhere tears are going to flow, 'cause the other man won out.

THE VOTER'S TRUST.

You hold your county's weal in your hand,

My brother, what will you do? Will you favor the man who is gracious and bland, Or the man who is earnest and true?

'Tis a sacred trust, the men who stand At the helm of our little boat Will steer us safely at last to land, If we choose the best by our vote.

So close up the ranks, keep your heads clear; Come out and vote for your man. Be his principles high, have never a fear, He'll serve you the best that he can.

Written for
The MESSAGE
May 31st,
1900.
Applicable to
Next Saturday,
April 26, 1902

A Prize Contest.

Warrenton, Mo., April 16.—In the military contest of Central Wesleyan College last night Cadet Milton Schutz of Springfield, Ill., won the sword. Lieutenant Colonel Goodwin of Mexico, Mo., assisted by his staff, acted as judge. In the gymnastic and physical culture exhibition the principal features were parallel bars and boxing exercises and tumbling. The lady students gave a fine drill.

The Magnates.

London, April 16.—J. P. Morgan, at the head of a syndicate, has underwritten \$55,000,000 of the new \$160,000,000 war loans at 2 1/2 per cent, authorized under the chancellor of the exchequer's budget. A Rothschild syndicate, it is said, has also underwritten \$5,000,000. The issue price in the city will be 63 1/2, being one-half per cent less than the last loan. The steel trust magnates took \$50,000,000 of the first war loan in \$1900.

Wedding Stopped.

Chicago, Ill., April 17.—After traveling more than 200 miles to meet her intended husband, Bessie Bosaw's heart failed her as she confronted the minister last night, and when she confessed that she did not love Sampson J. Broadway the minister refused to make them husband and wife.

He said when he asked her if she would take Sampson Broadway for better or worse tears filled her eyes, she hung her head, and murmured that she did not love him.

Robinson Crusoe.

Honolulu, April 15.—By the steamship China comes a story of a real Japanese Robinson Crusoe, who lived for 17 years on a deserted island, near Gensan, off Corea. The man was seen by the Japanese master of a fishing schooner, who thought him a monster from his wild appearance and did not dare to land. He reported to the Japanese government, which sent a boat in search of the man on the island. He was found and taken to Nagasaki.

The man had been so long without companionship that he was reduced almost to imbecility. His hair and beard were unkempt, and he had almost lost the power of speech. He had been cast away on the island 17 years ago and had subsisted since that time on fish and sea weed, living in a cave. He was entirely without implements of iron or any means of utilizing the scanty materials of nature which the island furnished.

Philip Shire says it is all a mistake about the frogs being dead. He invites the MESSAGE man out to his farm for proof. He has the "yelper" variety and the bull-frog, too.

The Dean Brothers—three of them—six miles south of Mexico, finished planting 770 acres of corn last week.

"THE WATER CURE."

This Administered—and "the Youngster Died."

Washington, D. C., April 17.—The administration is much exercised over the reports of cruelty shown by the army officers and soldiers in the Philippines, and President Roosevelt has issued the most preemptory orders that the guilty must be punished, no matter how high their rank in the military army and regardless of what political pull they may present.

For several weeks reports have been coming to the War Department of tortures that have been inflicted upon the natives of the far Pacific islands, especially those inhabiting the Island of Samar. These were discredited for a time, but their persistency and the corroborative details forwarded by those making the complaints, leave little room for doubt that men in uniform have resorted to practices such as might have been conceived and carried out during the dark days in Spain.

The Senate has taken a hand in the investigation and in a daily furnishing material for the War Department investigation, with the result that a number of courts martial have been ordered and others will follow in the near future.

Perhaps nothing has so spurred Washington officials to action as the death of Edward C. Richter, a private, serving with the army of occupation. The evidence is strong that he came to his death by the torture which is designated as the "water cure," and which has been practiced time and again upon natives who refused to reveal the whereabouts of concealed rifles. Richter, so the charge goes, was imprisoned for drunkenness and while partly delirious became abusive toward his superior officer. That man of epaulettes ordered him taken from the cell and given the "water cure." This was done and the youngster died from the effects of the inhuman treatment.

One eye witness, whose testimony is being considered in Washington, states that he has known of the "water cure" torture being administered in 200 cases and he has no doubt that thousands of instances could be found.

The "water cure," as described by this witness, is a barbarous torture that the Chinese might envy. The prisoner is laid on his back on the ground, his legs and arms are pinioned and his mouth is forced open. The water is poured in, not by the cup full, but by the gallon. The witness declares that he has seen as many as four gallons given one person. The victim must swallow or strangle, and so a result his stomach is distended and all his vital organs compressed. The way the water is taken from the body is by rolling the victim on a barrel, and it is said that Richter died while this latter operation was in progress.

Twentieth Century Medicine.

Cascarets Candy Cathartic are as far ahead of ancient pill poisons and liquid physic as the electric light of the yellow-nano. Genuine stamped C. C. C. Never sold in bulk. All druggists, 1902.

FLOUR...

MADE BY THE
MEXICO ROLLER
CUSTOM MILLS.

1st Grade, O. K. Patent.
2d Grade, Straight Patent
3d Grade, Standard.
4th Grade, Eagle.

Special price made on 500 lbs or over. Highest price paid for grain. Exchange with the farmers a specialty. Full stock of mill feed on hand. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

EU GENE E. JONES, Manager